215264 Carr

CAGY

Transportation

Columbus and Greenville Railway

P. O. Box 6000 Columbus, MS 39703



December 1, 2005



Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary Surface Transportation Board Mercury Building #711 1925 K Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

UEU 2 7005 SUPFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

FILED

R37

Re: Docket No. AB 297 (Sub. No. 102X)
Columbus & Greenville Railway Company
Verified Notice of Exemption
Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1152.50

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

DE: 9 / 20

Part of Public Record

TRANSPORT IN U.S. OARD

Dear Secretary Williams:

There are enclosed for filing an original and ten copies of a Verified Notice of Exemption covering the abandonment of 1.18 miles of railroad within the city of Greenwood, Mississippi. The packet also includes an Environmental and Historical Report that was circulated for comment to various State and Federal Agencies on November 7, 2005. A pre-filing draft copy of the Environmental and Historical Report portion of the packet was faxed to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis, as a courtesy, to provide that office with a point of reference in the event of contacts resulting from the agency circulation or the Notice published on November 11, 2005 in the *Greenwood Commonwealth*.

The packet also includes a Proof of Publication from the *Greenwood Commonwealth*, a list of agencies supplied the draft Environmental and Historical Report, a short write-up outlining the responses received from the agencies (with attached copes of any written responses) and a Draft Notice for publication in the Federal Register.

A voucher to cover the filing fee of \$3,000 as well a stamped self- addressed envelope for the purpose of returning a "received" stamped copy of this cover letter are also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Wandaleen Poynter Cole

Wandaleen P. Cole

#### Enclosures:

Filing Packet – Notice of Abandonment Exemption Newspaper Proof of Publication Environment and Historical Report (with comments) Filing Fee Stamped Self-Addressed Envelope (with extra copy of cover)

# BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

# COLUMBUS AND GREENVILLE RAILWAY COMPANY NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION CITY OF GREENWOOD, LEFLORE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

DOCKET NO. AB 297(Sub-No. 102X)

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50

Wandaleen Poynter Cole STB Counsel Columbus and Greenville Railway Company 201 19<sup>th</sup> Street North Columbus, Mississippi 39703

# BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102X)

# COLUMBUS AND GREENVILLE RAILWAY COMPANY NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION CITY OF GREENWOOD, LEFLORE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

# VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50

Columbus and Greenville Railway Company ("C&G"), a common carrier by railroad subject to U.S.C. Subtitle IV, chapter 105, hereby notifies the Board, pursuant to 49 U.S.C §10502, of an exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 10903 to abandon the line of railroad between Milepost 112.67 to Milepost 113.85, a distance of 1.18 miles, all within the City of Greenwood, County of Lefore, Mississippi, all in postal zip code 38930.

There has been no local traffic movement over the line for a period of time in excess of two years. Provision has been made for the rerouting of overhead traffic through the efforts of the City of Greenwood in the construction of a bypass track. This Board in Finance Docket No. 34666 has exempted the acquisition and operation of the bypass track by C&G.

No formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the line (or state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line has been brought or is pending with the Board or with any U.S. District Court. A Petition to Revoke in Finance Docket 34666 was withdrawn.

Based on information in the possession of C&G the line to be abandoned does not contain federally granted rights-of-way.

Twenty (20) days prior to filing this Verified Petition for Exemption, C&G served a copy of this Petition (in its current form and content) with: (1) the Mississippi Department of Transportation – Rails Division (2) The Department of Defense (Railroads for National Defense Program) and (3) the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Chief of the Forest Service. Pursuant to § 1105.11 a copy of an Environmental and Historic Report has also been served on the above listed agencies and additional agencies listed in Section 1105.11 including the Historic Preservation Officer of the State of Mississippi.

C&G employees are represented by Train Operations, Performance and Service Employees ("TOPS"). The employees have been advised of this proceeding and were advised of this Board's Finance Docket No. 34666 proceeding. There will be no negative impacts to the employees. No jobs will be eliminated and the crew work assignments are improved through operations on the unencumbered bypass track.

While there are no C&G structures on the line, historical or otherwise, and there is no evidence of any environmental concerns, there is also attached an environmental and historical report on the line.

VERIFICATION

I hereby verify that no local traffic has moved over the Columbus and

Greenville Railway Company's line between Milepost 112.67 and 113.85 in Leflore

County, Mississippi, for in excess of two years and that any overhead traffic on the

line has been rerouted. I further certify that no formal complaint filed by a user of

rail service on the line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of

such user) regarding cessation of service over the line is either pending with this

Board or any U. S. District Court. A Petition to Revoke Exemption in Finance

Docket 34666 dealing with the acquisition and operation of a bypass track to reroute

overhead traffic has been withdrawn. I further certify that I am duly authorized to

make this verification.

H. Lynn Gibson

**Executive Vice President** 

and Chief Financial Officer

X. Fyun Gosm

Dated: November 30, 2005

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL REPORT

# BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

# COLUMBUS AND GREENVILLE RAILWAY COMPANY NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION CITY OF GREENWOOD, LEFLORE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

**DOCKET NO. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102X)** 

VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL REPORT

#### Introduction

C&G will submit a filing with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB"), seeking exemption from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. §10903 to abandon rail operations over approximately 1.18 miles of its main line. The portion of C&G's main line subject of this notice is located wholly within the corporate limits of Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi. The segment of abandonment line (a map of which is attached as Exhibit A) is more particularly described as:

A line extending from milepost 112.67 to milepost 113.85 all within the City of Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi. The line segment is within the single zip code 38930. C&G moved approximately 13,000 loaded and empty cars of overhead rail traffic on the line in 2004, with comparable overhead traffic in 2002 and 2003. There have been no carloads originated or terminated on the line for over twenty-four months.

By letters dated November 7, 2005 C&G advised the federal and state agencies and county commissioners listed in the service list at the end of this Report "(the Agencies"), about the proposed abandonment of operations over the line segment. Any comments received on the Environmental and Historical Report, written or oral, will be summarized in a cover letter to the filing with the STB. C&G reserves the right to challenge the applicability of any law, rule or regulation, on any basis, raised by comments from any interested agencies or other parties. This Report has been prepared pursuant to 49 C.F.R.§§1105.7 and 1105.8.

#### **Environmental Report**

1. Proposed Action and Alternatives (§1105.7(e)(1))

C&G will abandon operations over the line segment to fulfill a commitment to the City of Greenwood, Mississippi ("the City") to move rail operations out of its commercial district. C&G's operations have been permanently rerouted to a bypass track constructed and currently owned by the City. The City received federal funding for the bypass. The funds were distributed through the Federal Railroad Administration. Upon publication of the Notice of Exemption in this Docket, and expiration of the required notice period, C&G will exchange its right-of-way, and attendant properties, to the City for the bypass right-of-way and track structures. It is the intent of the City to seek a public use condition from the STB to facilitate its intended use of the current C&G properties. The City, and therefore the public, will gain the elimination of twelve (12) at-grade crossings. The City will also gain additional safety and ease of access for school properties and health care facilities located adjacent to the line segment. There will also be a benefit to the State of Mississippi in the elimination of the cost of replacing and maintaining protective signaling devices.

The Exemption is further supported by the fact that no shipper has shipped or received carloads over the line segment for well in excess of the two years required to establish a basis for exemption.

The annual overhead traffic of approximately 13,000 cars (loaded and empty) have been permanently rerouted to the bypass track pursuant to an Exemption from Regulation in Surface Transportation Board Finance Docket 34666. The peak movement period involves the catfish industry. During the peak movement period (less than five months extending from May through September) the number can reach an average of 120 cars per day. There will therefore be minimal impact from the relocation of the movements.

In addition to ceasing service, C&G will remove the rail and other track materials from the line segment and perform related cleanup. C&G intends to recycle material, where possible, by using them on other parts of its system. Any unusable materials will be disposed of appropriately.

#### 2. Transportation System (49 C.F.R. §1105.7(e)(2))

Because there have been no carloads shipped or received on the line for in excess of two years, existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will not be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment. The existing overhead car movements have been rerouted to the newly constructed bypass track.

3. Land Use. (49 C.F.R. §1105.7(e)(3))

C&G has notified the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In Finance Docket 34666, Notice of Exemption of C&G to Acquire and Operate Greenwood Bypass Track, filed with the STB by C&G on March 23, 2005, Morris Scrap Recycling, Inc. filed a Petition to Revoke. C&G's records show that Morris has not shipped or received on the line segment for approximately 34 months. However, a settlement arrangement has been reached with Morris and it has withdrawn its request for revocation.

Conservation Service of this abandonment. While any responses will be summarized in the filing cover, the property involved is all located in an urban commercial area and it is *highly* unlikely that there would be an adverse effect on prime agricultural lands.

Other agencies interested in land use issues include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, The U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Mississippi Department of Health, Environmental Health Section. All of these agencies have been provided with copies of the draft Notice of Exemption and a copy of this Report.

#### 4. Energy. (49 C.F.R.§1105.7(e)(4))

Because there has been no carload movements over the line segment for more than two years, the proposed abandonment exemption will not cause diversion of traffic from rail to motor carrier in excess of applicable thresholds in 49 C.F.R.§1105.7(e)(4) or effect recyclable commodities or the transportation of energy resources, or result in any change in overall energy efficiency.

#### 5. Air. (49 C.F.R. §1105.7(e)(5))

Because there has been no local, and limited overhead, traffic over the line segment for more than two years, the abandonment of the line segment will not cause effects in excess of any applicable thresholds of this section.

4

#### 6. Noise. (49 C.F.R. §1105.7(e)(6))

Because the abandonment would not cause effects in excess of any threshold levels in this section, this issue is not applicable.

#### 7. Safety. (49 C.F.R. §1105.7(e)(7))

C&G is not aware of any adverse effect of the abandonment exemption to the public health or safety. Every fact would indicate that the contrary is true. Twelve atgrade crossings will be eliminated, trains will no longer run past two schools and a park and the City will be in a position to use the abandoned right-of-way for public use. The Mayor has indicated that the public use planning will make the safety of the vehicular and pedestrian public highest priority.

#### 8. Biological Resources. (49 C.F.R. 1105.7(e)(8))

The line segment is located within a congested city environment. It is highly unlikely that any protected animal species could be impacted. There are no waterways or sanctuary areas where wildlife could maintain a habitat. Requests for review have been sent to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

#### 9. Water. (49 C.F.R §1105.7(e)(8))

C&G is unaware of any possible impacts to water quality as a result of the abandonment. There are no open waterways under or adjacent to the right-of-way. There are culverts and municipal water pipes under or near the line. C&G will work closely with the City to assure that appropriate measures are taken to deal with these when abandonment

of the line is consummated. Review has been requested by the appropriate State, City and Federal agencies with appropriate jurisdiction.

#### 10. Proposed Mitigation. (49C.F.R. §1105.7(e)(10))

In the event substantive concerns arise regarding adverse environmental impacts, C&G will work with the appropriate agency, as required, to mitigate any adverse impacts the abandonment and salvage activities have on the environment. C&G has some properties adjacent to the railroad right-of-way leased to third parties. C&G will require any salvage agent or tenant working on its behalf to extend direct cooperation to the agencies as well.

#### Historical Report

1. Maps. (49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)(1)

Maps showing the location of the proposed abandonment are attached to this Report as Exhibit A.

2. Right-of-Way. (49 C.F.R.§1105.8(d)(3))

The right-of- way averages less than 100 feet in width and runs in a direct line through a municipal area. There is apparently no viable use for the property except public uses such as a street, walking, bicycle or wheelchair path or perhaps a small park area. The property does not appear to present an opportunity for housing or commercial development activity and there has been no indication that such activity has been or will be contemplated by the City.

#### 3. Photographs. (49 C.F.R. §11105.8(d)(3))

There are no railroad-owned structures over fifty years old located on or adjacent to the right-of-way. There are therefore no photographs included.

#### 4. Description of Structures. (49 C.F.R. \$1105/8(d)(4))

There are no railroad-owned bridges, buildings or other structures on the line segment.

Ownership of two structures, including a depot building, have been transferred. Transfers of these properties were made more than a decade prior to this Report.

#### 5. History of Operations. (49 C.F.R. §1105.8(d)(5))

The Columbus and Greenville Railway Company ("C&G") was organized in 1974 to acquire a line of railroad between Columbus, Mississippi and Greenville, Mississippi from the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company ("ICG"). C&G began rail freight operations over the line of road on October 29, 1975. C&G currently maintains its corporate offices at 201 19<sup>th</sup> Street North, Columbus, Mississippi. The short segment of line subject of this Report was a part of the transfer from ICG and has been a part of C&G's operations since the transfer date.

Because of the primarily light commercial and residential nature of the city location of the line segment there has been limited opportunity for the development of carload traffic. At the peak of C&G's operation of the line it had only one (1) shipper on the line segment. There are now none.

6. Documents and National Register of Historic Places (49 C.F.R. §§1105.8(d)(6), 1105.8(d)(7)).

There are no structures on the line segment.

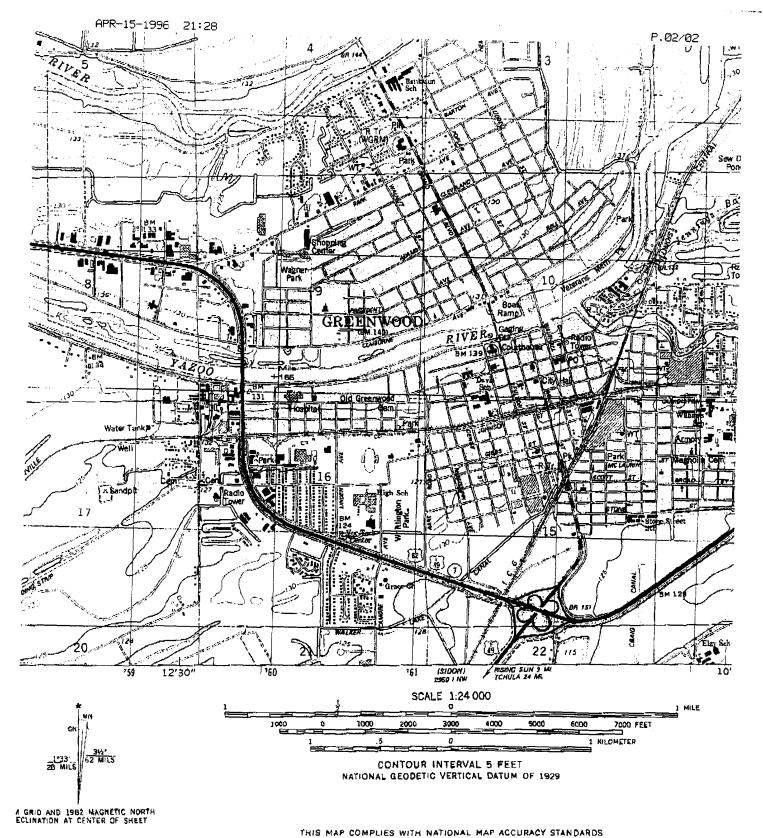
7. Environmental Conditions (49 C.F.R. §1105.8(d)(8)).

C&G is not aware of any prior subsurface ground disturbance or fill, or any other environmental condition (naturally occurring or man made) that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources (such as swampy conditions or the presence of toxic wastes) in the surrounding terrain. The roadbed is stable at all locations.

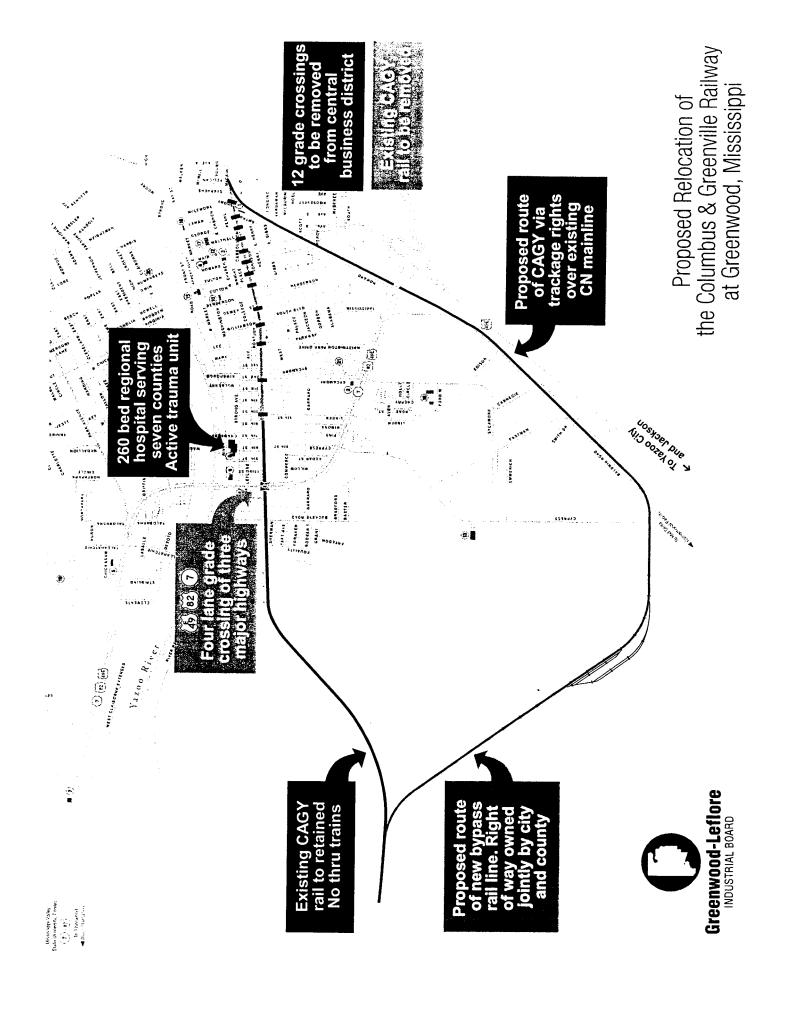
#### **EXHBIT A**

Greenwood, Mississippi Abandonment Project MAPS

Note: Proposed Bypass Track has been constructed and is in operation.



FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



## **Newspaper Publication**

#### Railroad Abandonment Notice

Columbus & Greenville Railway Company gives notice that on or about November 30, 2005, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington D.C. 20423, a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, et. seq., and 49 CFR 1152 Sub-part F – *Exempt Abandonments*, permitting the abandonment of a 1.8 mile line of railroad between railroad mileposts 112.67 and 113.85, all located within the City of Greenwood, Mississippi, Zip Code 38930 and Leflore County. The proceeding has been docketed as No. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102X).

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available twenty-five (25) days after the filing of notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than fifteen (15) days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board Decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington D.C. 20423 or by calling that office at 202-565-1500.

Rail Service will be continued on the bypass track recently constructed by the City of Greenwood located in the Greenwood/Leflore Industrial Park. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and ten (10) copies of any pleading that raises matters other than the environmental issues (such as trails or other public use) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20423, [see 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at 202-565-1500. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on Columbus & Greenville Railway Company, P. O. Box 6000, Columbus, Mississippi 39703. The Columbus & Greenville Railway Company can be contacted by telephone at 662-329-7710.

# PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI CITY OF GREENWOOD,

NOTICE the Circumbus and Greenville Railway The D Company gives notice that on or about November 30, 2005, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Roard, Washington D.C. 20423, a Enviropetition for exemption under 49 genera U.S.C. 10502 from the prior approval Assas requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10503, at 1, be a seq., and 49 CFR 1152 Sub-part F- after the company of the

the City of Greenwood, Mississippi, Zip Code 38930 and Leffore County. The proceeding has been docketed as No AB 297 (Sub-No. 102X).

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112.67 and 113.85, all located within

RAILROAD ABANDONMENT

Exempt Abandonments, permitting the abandonment of a 1.18 mile line of railroad between railroad mileposts

Greenville Railway Company, P.O. Box 6000, Columbus, Mississippi 39703. The Columbus & Greenville Railway Company can be contacted (10) oxples of any pleading that raises matters other than the environmental issues (such as traits or other public use) must be filed directly with 1104.12(a)). Questions regarding public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Rail Service will be continued on the bypass track recently constructed by he City of Greenwood located in the tions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and ten 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington J.C. 20423, [see 49 CFR Congressional and Public Services ments or requests for conditions should be served on Columbus & Requests for environmental condihe Board's Office of the Secretary, at 202-565-1500. Copies of any com-Greenwood/Leffore Industrial Park by telephone at 662-329-7710.

day of

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this

10/cm2/01

MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE NOTARY PUE MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JUNE 3, V BONDED THRU STEGALL NOTARY SER

November 11, 2005

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#### Draft Federal Register Notice

STB No. AB-297 (Sub.No. 102X)

Notice for Petition for Exemption to Abandon a Line of Railroad

On December 2, 2005 the Columbus and Greenville Railway Company filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, D.C. 20423. a Petition for Exemption for the Abandonment of a line of railroad within the corporate city limits of Greenwood, Mississippi, extending from railroad milepost 112.67 to milepost 113.85 which traverses through the City of Greenwood, County of Leflore, all in postal zip code 38930, a distance of 1.18 miles. There is no discontinuance of service associated with this abandonment.

The line does not contain any federally granted rights-of-way. Any documentation in the railroad's possession will be made promptly available to those requesting it.

There is no adverse impact on the union employees of the C&G, all of who are represented by Train Operations, Performance and Service Employees ("TOPS"), which has been given complete notification of the transaction associated with this abandonment.

All interested persons should be aware that following abandonment of the rail line and salvage of the line, the line will be suitable for public use. The City of Greenwood, Mississippi has filed a request for the imposition of a public use condition. This will allow the City and C&G to finalize a contract that included C&G removing its tracks from the center of Greenwood's business district.

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), which was available for public review on December 27, 2005. Comments on the EA are due to SEA on or before January 11, 2006. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington D.C. 20423 or by calling that office at 202-565-1500.

Example of Agency Form Letter
List of Agencies Served with Pre-filing documents (with notations about response)
Copies of hard copy responses from agencies.



Columbus and Greenville Railway

P. O. Box 6000 Columbus, MS 39703



November 7, 2005

Clearinghouse Officer
Department of Finance and Administration
Office of Policy Development
1301 Woolfolk Building, Suite F
501 North West Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Re: DOCKET NO. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102-X)
COLUMBUS AND GREENVILLE RAILWAY COMPANY
VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50

On or soon after November 30, 2005 Columbus and Greenville Railway Company ("C&G") will file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption covering abandonment of a segment of its main line track that extends through the City of Greenwood, Mississippi. The segment of track is identified on C&G's system diagram map as extending from milepost 112.67 to milepost 113.85. The entire proposed abandonment consists of 1.18 miles of track. There are no railroad-owned structures on the abandonment segment. Under an exemption published in the <u>Federal Register</u> on April 22, 2005 (70 FR 20963) C&G has permanently relocated its overhead main line operations to a bypass track currently owned by the City of Greenwood.

The City of Greenwood ("City") intends to exchange the bypass track and right-of-way for the 1.18 miles of abandoned right-of-way subject to the captioned proceeding. City has further indicated that it will file in this proceeding requesting the imposition of a public use condition. Based on the information available to C&G the abandonment property does not contain any federally granted right-of-way.

Federal Regulations at 49 C.F.R.§1152.50(d)(1) require that C&G provide you with the following information:

- 1. Name of railroad. Columbus and Greenville Railway Company
- 2. <u>Description of line to be abandoned</u>. A segment of C&G main line track between milepost 112.67 and milepost 113.85, all located with the City of Greenwood, Mississippi. The line is completely within U.S. Postal ZIP Code 38930.
- 3. <u>Abandonment procedure to be followed.</u> C&G intends to file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R.§1152.50. These exemption procedures are applicable to rail lines that have had no local traffic for at least two (2) years and where any overhead traffic can be rerouted. No local traffic has moved over the line for over two years and all overhead traffic has been rerouted over the bypass track constructed by the City of Greenwood.
- 4. <u>Date of filing</u>. C&G intends to file the Notice of Exemption with the STB on or soon after November 30, 2005.

Maps of the affected area are included within this packet. If you have any questions please contact the offices of C&G at 662-329-7710. If the request is made during a business day followed by a business day your question will be answered within twenty-four (24) hours unless research or field evaluation is required.

In order to satisfy the regulatory requirements a reply to this communication from your offices would be appreciated by November 25, 2005. C&G will make every effort to provide any reasonable requests for additional information to facilitate your early response.

In addition to raising any questions or concerns about the environmental report contained herein with C&G you should also express any concerns to the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis, 1925 K. Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20423, telephone number 202-565-1500.

C&G initially intended to circulate these notice materials in early September. The
mailing was delayed because of concern that circulating time sensitive materials
immediately after the devastation of hurricane Katrina would place an unfair burden on
many of the offices being notified especially those with offices located in Jackson,
Mississippi.

Yours truly,

Wandaleen Poynter Cole STB Counsel

#### Enclosures:

STB Docket AB-297 (Sub. No. 102-X) Exemption Filing Packet (Including the Environmental and Historical Report)

**Pre-filing Notification List** Docket No. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102-X) Columbus & Greenville Railway

Mr. Steven Edwards

Rails Division Engineer Surveyed by Clearinghouse

Mississippi Department of Transportation (53-01)

P.O. Box 1850

Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1850

Clearinghouse Officer

Department of Finance and Administration

Office of Policy Development 11/14 Acknowledgement

1301 Woolfolk Building, Suite F 11/23 Clearance

501 North West Street Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Mr. Chris Hoberg

Office of Environmental Assessment

No Response U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Continuing to Trace 61 Forsyth Street

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Frank Maida DOC/NOAA

National Geodetic Survey Several Telephone Messages No Response as of 12/1 N/MGS 23, Station 8858

Response will be after-filed 1315 East-West Highway

Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Mr. Roger Walker

Review & Compliance Officer

Mississippi Department of Archives and History 11/16 Clearance from Thomas H. Waggener

P.O. Box 571

Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

1141 Bayview Avenue

Suite 101

Biloxi, Mississippi 39530 Evelyn Thompson/Jerry Brashier

11/14 Statement of No Jurisdiction

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Jackson State Office Building

100 West Capitol Street

Jackson, Mississippi 39269

Surveyed by Clearinghouse

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 20305

Jackson, Mississippi 39289

Surveyed by Clearinghouse

Mayor Harry L. Smith

City of Greenwood

101 Church Street

Greenwood, Mississippi 38935-0907

Applying to STB for Public Use

Condition

Mr. Curtis James

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

1524 South Frontage Road, Suite B

Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180-5269

11/15 Clearance by David Felder Environmental Coordinator

Mr. William Haney, President South Delta Planning & Development District, Inc.

P.O. Box 1776

Greenville, Mississippi 38701

No Response

Mr. Dave Dorfman (Attn: MTT-SA)

Policy & Program Division

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command

11/23 Response from Michael E. McNair, R.F.

Transportation Engineering Agency 720 Thimble Shoals Blvd., Ste. 130

Newport News, Va. 23606-4537

Ms. Beth Guynes, Regulatory Branch 11/15 Ackowledgement

U. S. Army Corp of Engineers

11/23 Preliminary Finding of No Jurisdiction

4155 Clay Street

Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183

Mr. Charles Chisolm, Director

Office of Pollution Control

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Surveyed by Clearinghouse

P. O. Box 10385

Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385

Mr. Tom Ross

Chief of National Recreation and Trails

U.S. Department of Interior - National Park Service

Recreation Resources Assistance Division

P.O. Box 37127

Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Returned Packet - Box Closed

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes, State Conservationist

U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Suite 1321 Federal Building

Jackson, Mississippi 39260

Surveyed by Clearinghouse

Mr. H. T. Holmes, SHPO

Mississippi Department of Archives & History

P. O. Box 571

Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

Response from Waggoner

Mr. Dale Bosworth

Office of Chief of Forest Service

U. S. Department of Agriculture

**Auditors Building** 

201 14th Street S.W. and Independence Ave., S. W.

Washington, D.C. 20250

Clearance from David Felder

National Park Service

National Center for Recreation & Conservation

MS 3622 C (Org. Code 2220)

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Paul Hartwig Verifying

Mr. Robert Moore (District 2)

Chair - Leflore County Supervisors

P.O. Box 250

Board Met on November 29

Voted to Support -- Proof to be Supplied

County Courthouse

Greenwood, Mississippi 38935-0250

(Six copies for circulation to additional supervisors and County

Administrator)

U.S. Park Service

100 Alabama Street, S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Mr. Paul Hartwig Clearance 12/1

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Center

Century Center

1875 Century Boulevard

Atlanta Georgia 30345

Clearance by David Felder

PGM=N150

# EO 12372 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI WEEKLY LOG STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS DATE 11/03/05

11/09/05

MS APPLICANT NO.: MS051109-003R APPLICANT:
IMPACT AREA(S): LEFLORE COLUMBUS AND GREENVILLE RAILWAY

IMPACT AREA(S): LEFLORE

CONTACT: WANDALEEN POYNTER COLE P.O. BOX 6000

PHONE: (000) 000-0000

COLUMBUS

MS 39703

FEDERAL AGENCY:

FUNDING: FEDERAL

LOCAL TOTAL APPLICANT

OTHER

STATE PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION:

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE WITH SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION COVERING ABANDONMENT OF SEGMENT OF MAIN LINE TRACK EXTENDING THROUGH THE CITY OF GREENWOOD, MS. THE ENTIRE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT CONSISTS OF 1.18 MILES OF TRACK

BETWEEN MILEPOST 112.67 AND MILEPOST 113.85. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER

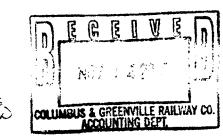
1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON, MS 39201 (601) 359-6762

\_\_\_\_\_

- THIS IS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ONLY -

STATE AGENCIES MUST REVIEW CERTAIN PROPOSALS PRIOR TO RECEIVING MISSISSIPPI INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS CLEARANCE. THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY REVIEWS ANY PROPOSALS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION, SUCH AS A HIGHWAY OR AN APARTMENT COMPLEX FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CULTURAL RESOURCES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION. MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL, REVIEWS APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT. THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES REVIEWS APPLICATIONS FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL PROGRAM.

IF APPLICATIONS ARE FOR PROJECTS OF LOCAL IMPACT, THEY SHOULD BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AT THE SAME TIME. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONE OF OUR REQUIREMENTS IS THE USE OF STANDARD FORM 424. THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION PREPARES AND DISTRIBUTES A WEEKLY LOG LISTING PERTINENT INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS FORM. OUR ADDRESS IS 1301 WOOLFOLK BLDG., SUITE E - JACKSON , MS 39201 AND OUR PHONE NUMBER IS (601)359-6762.



orig : HLG Co: Mer



#### STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### **MEMORANDUM**

COLUMBUS AND GREENVILLE RAILWAY

TO: P.O. BOX 6000

COLUMBUS MS 39703

DATE:

NOV 2 3 2005

FROM:

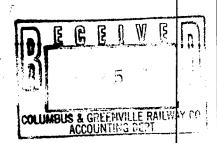
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: REVIEW COMMENTS - Activity:

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE WITH SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION COVERING ABANDONMENT OF SEGMENT OF MAIN LINE TRACK EXTENDING THROUGH THE CITY OF GREENWOOD, MS. THE ENTIRE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT CONSISTS OF 1.18 MILES OF TRACK BETWEEN MILEPOST 112.67 AND MILEPOST 113.85.

State Application Identifier Number

MS051109-003R



Location: LEFLORE

Contact: W

WANDALEEN POYNTER CO

The State Clearinghouse, in cooperation with state agencies interested or possibly affected, has completed the review process for the activity described above.

#### INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS COMPLIANCE:

- ( ) We are enclosing the comments received from the state agencies for your consideration and appropriate actions. The remaining agencies involved in the review did not have comments or recommendations to offer at this time. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.
- ( ) Conditional clearance pending Archives and History's approval.
- None of the state agencies involved in the review had comments or recommendations to offer at this time. This concludes the State Clearinghouse review, and we encourage appropriate action as soon as possible. A copy of this letter is to be attached to the application as evidence of compliance with Executive Order 12372 review requirements.
- ( ) The review of this activity is being extended for a period not to exceed 60 days from the receipt of notification to allow adequate time for review.

#### COASTAL PROGRAM COMPLIANCE (Coastal area activities only):

- ( ) The activity has been reviewed and complies with the Mississippi Coastal Program. A consistency certification is to issued by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
- ( ) The activity has been reviewed and does not comply with the Mississippi Coastal Program.

#### RECEIVED

NOV 14 2005

By MS Field Office

CAGY
Transportation

Columbus and Greenville Railway
P. O. Box 6000

Columbus, MS 39703

November 7, 2005

Mr. Curtis James U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1524 South Frontage Road, Suite B Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180-5269

Re: DOCKET NO. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102-X)
COLUMBUS AND GREENVILLE RAILWAY COMPANY
VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50

Dear Mr. James:

On or soon after November 30, 2005 Columbus and Greenville Railway Company ("C&G") will file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption covering abandonment of a segment of its main line track that extends through the City of Greenwood, Mississippi. The segment of track is identified on C&G's system diagram map as extending from milepost 112.67 to milepost 113.85. The entire proposed abandonment consists of 1.18 miles of track. There are no railroad-owned structures on the abandonment segment. Under an exemption published in the <u>Federal Register</u> on April 22, 2005 (70 FR 20963) C&G has permanently relocated its overhead main line operations to a bypass track currently owned by the City of Greenwood.

が No Significant adv なNo listed, propos	rerse welland limpacts and or candidate species present
David Fe	elde/
Environmental Coord U.S. Fish and Wildlife	dinator
2006-147	11/15/05
Log No.	Date

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS



4155 CLAY STREET VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

November 23, 2005

Operations Division Regulatory

SUBJECT: Determination of Permit Requirements

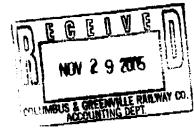
Ms. Wandaleen Poynter Cole Surface Transportation Board Counsel Columbus and Greenville Railway Company 201 19<sup>th</sup> Street North Columbus, Mississippi 39703

Dear Ms. Cole:

I refer to your recent correspondence concerning the proposed abandonment by Columbus and Greenville Railway Company of approximately 1.18 miles of railroad line that currently runs through Greenwood in Leflore County, Mississippi.

Based upon the information furnished, it appears that a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required for the proposed work. In the event that project plans are changed, or if you anticipate any additional construction, please contact this office for a reevaluation of permit requirements, and refer to No. MVK-2005-1578 when submitting the information.

This preliminary jurisdictional determination was based upon available information that there does not appear to be jurisdictional areas on the property subject to regulation pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. An appeals form has been enclosed for your review (enclosure).



This determination of Department of the Army regulatory requirements does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material or any exclusive privileges, and does not authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or local laws or regulations, or obviate the requirement to obtain State or local assent required by law for the activity discussed herein.

If we may be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact Ms. Karen Dove-Jackson, telephone (601) 631-7136, fax (601) 631-5459 or e-mail address: regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

richael E. McNair, R.F.

Team Leader, Permit Section

Regulatory Branch

Enclosure

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4155 CLAY STREET
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

November 15, 2005

Operations Division Regulatory

SUBJECT: Columbus and Greenville Railway Company - Line Abandonment Project, Main Line Track between MP 112.67 and MP 113.85, City of Greenwood, Leflore County, Mississippi

Ms. Wandaleen Poynter Cole STB Counsel Columbus and Greenville Railway Company 201 19th Street North Columbus, Mississippi 39703

Dear Ms. Cole:

We have received your correspondence, subject as above, on November 9, 2005. We are working diligently to reply to you in a timely manner. For ease of reference, we assigned your correspondence an identification number: MVK-2005-1578. Please refer to this number should you write or call us about your request.

If you have any questions about the status of your request, please call this office at 601-631-5165.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Guynes Chief, Regulatory Branch

Elist S. Buyra

MARCAGY CAGY

Columbus and Greenville Railway

P. O. Box 6000 Columbus. MS 39703

November 7, 2005

Ms. Beth Guynes, Regulatory Branch U. S. Army Corp of Engineers 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183

Re: DOCKET NO. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102-X)
COLUMBUS AND GREENVILLE RAILWAY COMPANY
VERIFIED NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
PURSUANT TO 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50

Dear Ms. Guynes:

On or soon after November 30, 2005 Columbus and Greenville Railway Company ("C&G") will file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption covering abandonment of a segment of its main line track that extends through the City of Greenwood, Mississippi. The segment of track is identified on C&G's system diagram map as extending from milepost 112.67 to milepost 113.85. The entire proposed abandonment consists of 1.18 miles of track. There are no railroad-owned structures on the abandonment segment. Under an exemption published in the <u>Federal Register</u> on April 22, 2005 (70 FR 20963) C&G has permanently relocated its overhead main line operations to a bypass track currently owned by the City of Greenwood.

11-09-05 15:16 CCVD

1 -6 11 -11 1

MVK-2005-1578 11/15 (309) 05:52 5002-62-00N

80/40.9

The City of Greenwood ("City") intends to exchange the bypass track and right-of-way for the 1.18 miles of abandoned right-of-way subject to the captioned proceeding. City has further indicated that it will file in this proceeding requesting the imposition of a public use condition. Based on the information available to C&G the abandonment property does not contain any federally granted right-of-way.

Federal Regulations at 49 C.F.R.§1152.50(d)(1) require that C&G provide you with the following information:

- 1. Name of railroad. Columbus and Greenville Railway Company
- Description of line to be abandoned. A segment of C&G main line track between milepost 112.67 and milepost 113.85, all located with the City of Greenwood, Mississippi. The line is completely within U.S. Postal ZIP Code 38930.
- 3. Abandonment procedure to be followed. C&G intends to file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 C.F.R.§1152.50. These exemption procedures are applicable to rail lines that have had no local traffic for at least two (2) years and where any overhead traffic can be rerouted. No local traffic has moved over the line for over two years and all overhead traffic has been rerouted over the bypass track constructed by the City of Greenwood.
- 4. <u>Date of filing</u>. C&G intends to file the Notice of Exemption with the STB on or soon after November 30, 2005.

Maps of the affected area are included within this packet. If you have any questions please contact the offices of C&G at 662-329-7710. If the request is made during a business day followed by a business day your question will be answered within twenty-four (24) hours unless research or field evaluation is required.

In order to satisfy the regulatory requirements a reply to this communication from your offices would be appreciated by November 25, 2005. C&G will make every effort to provide any reasonable requests for additional information to facilitate your early response.

In addition to raising any questions or concerns about the environmental report contained herein with C&G you should also express any concerns to the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis, 1925 K. Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20423, telephone number 202-565-1500.

80/20.9

C&G initially intended to circulate these notice materials in early September. The mailing was delayed because of concern that circulating time sensitive materials immediately after the devastation of hurricane Katrina would place an unfair burden on many of the offices being notified especially those with offices located in Jackson, Mississippi.

Yours truly,

Wandaleen Poynter Cole

Wandalen ! Cole

STB Counsel

Enclosures:

STB Docket AB-297 (Sub. No. 102-X) Exemption Filing Packet (Including the Environmental and Historical Report)

# NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

Арр	licant: Columbus and Greenville Railway	File Number: MVK-2005-1578	Date: November 23, 2005
Atta	ched is:		See Section Below
	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or	Letter of Permission	A
	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of	Permission	В
	PERMIT DENIAL		С
	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	N	D
x	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINAT	TON	E

SECTION I - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at http://usace.army.mil/inst/functions/ow/esowo/reg or Cospe regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

- A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the parmit.
- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and wrive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations (JD) associated with the permit.
- OBJECT: If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns. (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.
- B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit.
- ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- APPEAL: If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may
  appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending
  the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- D. APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.
- ACCEPT: You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice, means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- APPEAL: If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional informatic addressed in the administrative record.)		re your reasons or objections are
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SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL OF OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT



### MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

## **Fax Transmittal Sheet**

Date:

November 14, 2005

Total Number of Pages: 2

To: Wanda Cole

Organization: Columbus and Greenville

Railway

Fax Number: 1-410-467-2936

From: Evelyn Thompson/Jerry Brashier

Phone: (228) 374-5022 EXT

Message: Re: Docket No. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102-X)

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NOTE: If any of these fax copies are illegible, or you do not receive the same number of pages as stated above, please contact us immediately at:

1141 Bayview Avenue ● Suite 101 ● Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Return FAX: (228) 374-5005

Scould not get the fact to works.

#### 11/14/05

To: Wandaleen Cole

From: Jerry Brashier, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Subject: Columbus & Greenville Railway Company; Docket No. AB 297 (Sub-No. 102-X)

Ms. Cole, this project does not fall within the jurisdiction of this agency; therefore, we have no comments.

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#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571 601-576-6940 • Fax 601-576-6955 mdah.state.ms.us

November 16, 2005

Ms. Wandaleen Poynter Cole Columbus and Greenville Railway Post Office Box 6000 Columbus, Mississippi 39703

Dear Ms. Cole:

RE: Proposed rail line abandonment of 1.18 miles of track, Leflore County

We have reviewed your November 7, 2005, cultural resources assessment request for the above referenced project proposal in accordance with our responsibilities outlined in 36 CFR 800.4 and 800.5 regarding the identification of historic properties and assessment of any potential adverse effects. It is our determination that no properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected. Therefore, we have no reservations with the proposal.

In addition, we are not aware of any potential of this undertaking to affect Indian cultural or religious sites. However, if you require confirmation of this, the tribal entities will have to be contacted directly.

Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations. There remains a very remote possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during construction. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting us immediately so that we may take appropriate steps under 36 CFR 800, part 13, regarding our response within forty-eight hours. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

H. T. Holmes

State Historic Preservation Officer

Thomas A. Wagejew

By: Thomas H. Waggénér

Review and Compliance Officer

cc: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs

CAGY
Transportation

Columbus and Greenville Railway
P. O. Box 6000
Columbus, MS 39703

#### FACSIMILE COVER

To: Paul Hartwig
U.S. National Park Service
Atlanta, Georgia
404-562-3263

From: Wandaleen Cole

Columbus and Greenville Railway Company

410-467-2936

Cover Plus 20 pages

Date: December 1, 2005

Re: STB Docket No. AB 297 (Sub No. 102X) - Columbus and Greenville Railway Company Verified Notice of Exemption - Abandonment of 1.18 Miles of Railroad in Greenwood, Mississippi

Mr. Hartwig:

Thank you for tracing the circulation of this document within your agency. As additional information, this document was also addressed to:

Mr. Tom Ross
Chief National Recreation and Trails
U.S. Department of Interior - National Park Service
Recreation Resources Assistance Division
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Returned with notation that Box was closed.

And

National Park Service
National Center for Recreation & Conservation
MS 3622 C (Org. Code 2220)
1849 C Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

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